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PSB**EYES ONLY**

23 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director (Intelligence) ✓

SUBJECT: Status of PSB-Admiral Stevens' group effort to develop a strategic concept for a national psychological program

1. With reference to my oral statements to the addressees of this memorandum, I am submitting herewith for your information and comment a copy of the latest draft of the paper which the small group headed by Admiral Stevens has been working on for the last few months. This work has been going forward under the general aegis of the PSB because of the provisions of NSC 10/5 which vests in the PSB responsibility for the formulation and promulgation of over-all national psychological objectives, policies, and programs. The regular working staff of the PSB has so far had very little to do with the formulation of this paper, although its Director and Deputy Director have been kept generally informed of the status of the effort by Admiral Stevens.

2. The origin of the current effort dates back to a time prior to the inauguration of Mr. Allen as Director of the PSB staff. Mr. Gordon Gray called a meeting which was attended by high-level representatives of the Department of State (Messrs. Bohlen and Mitze), the Department of Defense (General Magruder and possibly a representative of Mr. Nash's office), and the PSB staff (Mr. Gray and one or two others). The undersigned represented this Agency. It is my belief, and I have recommended to Admiral Stevens, that the working group has progressed to the point where it has become desirable for the draft to be submitted to the officials who attended the first meeting; and for a further meeting of the same group to be called. I trust that such a meeting will be held in the near future; and because of the obvious tie-up between this paper and the work of the Senior Staff on NSC 68 and 114, I believe it would be helpful for Mr. Becker to attend together with the undersigned.

3. With regard to the form and content of the present draft, none of the members of the drafting group are satisfied with the paper. Admiral Stevens is most nearly satisfied, and Messrs. [redacted] and the undersigned have different reservations with regard to the propriety and adequacy of the paper in its present form. [redacted] reservations and objections are not in all respects clear and have not been

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25X1C sufficiently articulated by him. He tends to object to the application of this paper to overt psychological operations. Admiral Stevens and I incline to the view that the paper should apply to overt as well as covert psychological operations and to believe that if it is restricted to covert operations, the first result will be a demand for the production of an additional paper applicable to overt operations. My reservations come down to the fact that the paper does not provide as clear and concise a guide for our operations as we would wish. This is no easy matter and it may be that we will have to be satisfied for the present with something along the lines of this interim guidance. It does contain language expressly approving the general program of covert operations now in effect (see paragraph 12), but it leaves the fresh reader with the impression that greatest emphasis is placed upon the five categories of action referred to and described in paragraph 14. This I consider to be unfortunate inasmuch as it may result in the conclusion being drawn that other vital lines of activity should be correspondingly de-emphasized; which is not the intent of the paper. For example, from the amount of space devoted to the discussion entitled [REDACTED] one could infer that this operation is recommended for the highest priority. At the same time the failure to include a discussion of other vital projects, such as the effort to win (and keep won) [REDACTED] may give rise to the conclusion these other projects are not rated so highly.

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(Signed) FRANK G. WISNER

FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

Attachment

TS 63851 (copy 8 to DDCI,
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